

**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF MANAGERS
OF SPECIAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT #5
OF THE RIO GRANDE WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
December 20, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.
Rio Grande Water Conservation District Conference Room
And by Zoom/Teleconference**

Present: David Schmittel, President; George Whitten, Vice-President/Secretary/Treasurer; Kit Caldon, Manager; Dale Gerstberger, Manager; and Corey Hill, Manager.

Absent : Doug Gunnels, Ex Officio Member.

Staff and Consultants: Pete Ampe, Hill & Robbins, P.C.; Chris Ivers, Program Manager; Wylie Keller, Water Resource Specialist; Clinton Phillips, Davis Engineering; Rose Vanderpool, Program Assistant; and April Mondragon, Administrative Assistant.

Guests: Deb Sarason, David Hofmann, Michelle Lanzoni, John Gerstle, William Myers, Tim Lovato, Darrell, Diane Woodard, Willie Hoffner, and Sally Weir.

Meeting Called to Order

President Schmittel called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m. A quorum was present for the meeting.

Approval of the Agenda

President Schmittel asked for any changes, additions or a motion to approve the agenda. A motion was made by Kit Caldon to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Dale Gerstberger and unanimously approved.

Public Comment

President Schmittel asked for public comment. Willie Hoffner commented on the impact to surface water rights when the wells are not running and the amount of compact water ran to the Rio Grande Canal Water users after the irrigation season. Diane Woodard asked for guidance on how to bring issues to the Board for discussion and reported she would provide the Board with additional handouts.

Allocation of Groundwater Withdrawals for 2023

President Schmittel asked for Allocation of Groundwater Withdrawals for 2023. George Whitten reported why the Subdistrict chose to place an allocation on their groundwater withdrawals even though the Subdistrict is sustainable. He explained how the 70% percent allocation did not affect his operation too much due to the actions he has taken. Mr. Whitten reported not wanting to take away the ability of people to pump their wells and felt the water users needed to be rewarded for the improvements that had been made. Dale Gerstberger commented on the cost of pumping wells and the natural cut back that should occur due to higher costs. He highlighted his water table and the improvements made to the aquifer. Mr. Gerstberger stated he would like to see the allocation amount raised in order to get caught up on his ranch. Corey Hill reported the Subdistrict is doing the best they can and agrees with Mr. Whitten that water users deserve to be rewarded for the progress. He reported a bit of an increase would be a good idea and monitor to see where they end up next year. Kit Caldon highlighted the responsibility of sustaining and improving the aquifer. He touched on the ways the Subdistrict has accomplished improvements. Mr. Caldon explained an increase to the allocation was necessary for many to stay in business. President Schmittel commented on the importance of improving the aquifer and due to the increase in costs would suggest an increase to the allocation above 70%. Willie Myers explained why he felt there should not be a pumping restriction. He reported on the Subdistricts sustainability, the reason the Subdistrict entertained enforcing an allocation, the need to generate funds to sustain the Subdistrict, and the lack of support from the Saguache Creek Water Users to negotiate WIP agreements. Diane Woodard commented on methane control in connection with cows and water. Clinton Phillips presented the Saguache Response Area Monitoring Wells Measurements by model layer and how the aquifer responded positively.

A motion was made by Kit Caldon to set the 2023 allocation at 85%. The motion was seconded by Dale Gerstberger and unanimously approved.

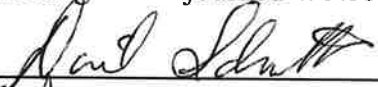
Clinton Phillips provided an update on the augmentation well. Chris Ivers gave an update on the progress Xcel Energy has made on getting power to the well. Discussion was held on the steps of action to take on users that pump over the allocated amount. Tim Lovato asked for clarification on the 52% of pumping, projected runoff for 2022 and the location of Sag 2 well.

Next Meeting

The next quarterly meeting scheduled for January 18, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. was changed to January 23, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:55 p.m.



President



Vice-President/Secretary/Treasurer